

# Los Alamos National Laboratory Director's Colloquium



## Dr. Janet Norwood

Counselor and Senior Fellow  
at the New York Conference Board

### Statistics in Our Democratic Society

This colloquium will focus on ways in which statistical information affects the lives of citizens in a democratic society. A brief introduction will point out that Americans increasingly rely on statistical information to formulate their views and to make decisions. Following is a discussion on how we are coping with the demand for data while struggling with three problems of concept and application in major government data sets. Widely used but frequently not understood, these data frequently create conflict between statistical science and the policy purposes to which the government applies them. The first problem involves the meaning of unemployment as measured in the federal labor force survey. The second is the still unresolved difficulty in defining race and ethnicity in the decennial census. And the third is the now long-standing controversy over measuring inflation through the Consumer Price Index.

Physics Auditorium  
11 February 2003  
1:10 PM

Unclassified  
Open to Badge Holders

To Be Shown on LABNET (Live Channel 9)  
Real Media Live Video Stream

Technical Host: Sallie A. Keller-McNulty, D-1